

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge
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For Refuge Information
1 800 / 344 WILD

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Two Ponds

National Wildlife Refuge

Bird List



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An Oasis in the City for People and Wildlife



This goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, is the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is located in Arvada, Colorado near the intersection of Kipling Street and West 80th Avenue. The Refuge is the smallest urban unit in the National Wildlife Refuge System. It is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the enhance wildlife habitat and serve as an urban classroom to promote appreciation and foster stewardship of natural places.

The Refuge covers 72.2 acres with 63.2 acres of uplands, 9 acres of wetlands, and 3 small ponds. The mix of the habitats support various types of plant communities that support migrant and resident birds. By taking a short walk on the trails, you may encounter sparrows, hawks, woodpeckers, red-winged blackbirds, magpies, warblers, waterfowl, and herons.

Two Ponds NWR is split into two areas, East and West. The east side is the Environmental Education area and is open to the public on Tuesdays through Saturdays from May through September, and throughout the year to groups of 10 or more on a reservation basis. The west side is the Prairie Management Area where trails are open seven days a week from dawn until dusk throughout the year.

About the List

This list follows the organization of the American Ornithologists' Union's Seventh Edition Checklist, including changes through the 55th Supplement. The information in this checklist is based on survey data collected between 1995 and 2013. Only species seen on the Refuge during the survey periods are quantified.

Seasons

Since many birds are migratory, their seasonal occurrence and relative abundance are noted as follows:

- SP** Spring (March – May)
- S** Summer (June – August)
- F** Fall (September – November)
- W** Winter (December – February)

Seasonal Abundance

- c common – certain to be seen in suitable habitat
- u uncommon – present, but not certain to be seen
- r rare – seen at intervals of 2 – 5 years
- breeds on Refuge
- + non-native species

Presence Not Confirmed

The following is a list of resident or migrant birds found in local habitats similar to those on the Refuge. Their presence on the Refuge has not been confirmed. This list was contributed to by the Denver Museum of Natural History, the Colorado Division of Wildlife, Seth Beres, and David Rhoades.

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| ■ Horned Grebe | ■ Herring Gull |
| ■ Eared Grebe | ■ Forster's Tern |
| ■ White-faced Ibis | ■ Eastern Screech Owl |
| ■ Cinnamon Teal | ■ Hairy Woodpecker |
| ■ Northern Pintail | ■ Warbling Vireo |
| ■ Bufflehead | ■ Western Scrub-Jay |
| ■ Common Goldeneye | ■ Tree Swallow |
| ■ Ruddy Duck | ■ Bank Swallow |
| ■ Ferruginous Hawk | ■ Mountain Chickadee |
| ■ Merlin | ■ Brown Creeper |
| ■ Lesser Yellowlegs | ■ Marsh Wren |
| ■ Willet | ■ Mountain Bluebird |
| ■ Spotted Sandpiper | ■ Hermit Thrush |
| ■ Wilson's Phalarope | |

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Ducks and Geese				
Canada Goose	c	c	c	c
Gadwall	u	u	u	
American Wigeon	u		c	u
Mallard	c	c	c	c
Blue-winged Teal	u			
Northern Shoveler		r	r	
Green-winged Teal		u		
Redhead	c		r	r
Ring-necked Duck	u		u	
Lesser Scaup	r			
Hooded Merganser	r			
Grouse and Turkeys				
Ring-necked Pheasant			r	
Turkey Vulture	u		u	
Grebes				
Pied-billed Grebe	u		u	
Cormorants				
Double-crested Cormorant	c	c	c	
Pelicans				
American White Pelican	u	u		
Bitterns, Herons and Egrets				
American Bittern	r			
Great Blue Heron	c	c	c	r
Great Egret		r		
Cattle Egret		r	r	
Green Heron	r	r		
Black-crowned Night-Heron	c	c	c	
New World Vultures				
Turkey Vulture	u		u	
Osprey				
Osprey	r			
Hawks and Eagles				
Bald Eagle	r		r	r
Northern Harrier		u		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	r		u	r
Cooper's Hawk	r	r	r	
Broad-winged Hawk	r			
Swainson's Hawk	c	c	r	
Red-tailed Hawk	c	c	c	c
Rough-legged Hawk	u		u	
Golden Eagle			r	

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Gallinules and Coots				
Sora	r			
American Coot	r			
Cranes				
Sandhill Crane	r			
Plovers				
Killdeer	c	u	r	
Sandpipers and Phalaropes				
Solitary Sandpiper			r	
Wilson's Snipe			u	
Gulls				
Franklin's Gull	r	r	r	
Ring-billed Gull	c	c	c	c
California Gull		r	r	
Pigeons and Doves				
Rock Pigeon (<i>introduced</i>)	c	c	c	c
Eurasian Collared-Dove (<i>introduced</i>)	u			
Mourning Dove	c	c	c	r
Owls				
Great Horned Owl	r		r	r
Nightjars				
Common Nighthawk		c		
Swifts				
Chimney Swift	r		r	
Hummingbirds				
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	r			
Kingfishers				
Belted Kingfisher	c	c	c	c
Woodpeckers				
Downy Woodpecker	c	c	c	c
Northern Flicker	c	c	c	c
Falcons				
American Kestrel	c	c	c	c
Peregrine Falcon			r	
Prairie Falcon	u	r	u	
Flycatchers				
Olive-sided Flycatcher		r		

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Western Wood-Pewee	r	u	r	
Say's Phoebe			r	
Western Kingbird		u	r	
Eastern Kingbird		u		
Shrikes				
Loggerhead Shrike		r	r	
Northern Shrike			u	
Vireos				
Plumbeous Vireo			r	
Cassin's Vireo			r	
Red-eyed Vireo	r		r	
Jays, Magpies and Crows				
Blue Jay	c	c	c	c
Black-billed Magpie	c	c	c	c
American Crow	c	c	c	c
Swallows				
Violet-green Swallow	u	r		
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	c	c		
Cliff Swallow	c	c	r	
Barn Swallow	c	c	u	
Chickadees and Nuthatches				
Black-capped Chickadee	c	c	c	c
Red-breasted Nuthatch			r	
White-breasted Nuthatch			r	
Wrens				
Rock Wren			r	
House Wren	c	c	r	
Gnatcatchers				
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	r			
Kinglets				
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	u		u	u
Thrushes				
Townsend's Solitaire	r		r	r
Swainson's Thrush	r			
American Robin	c	c	c	c
Starlings				
European Starling	c	c	c	c
Pipits				
American Pipit		r		

Common Bird Name	Sp	S	F	W
Waxwings				
Bohemian Waxwing	r			
Cedar Waxwing		r		
Wood Warblers				
Northern Waterthrush	r			
Orange-crowned Warbler	u		u	
MacGillivray's Warbler	r			
Common Yellowthroat	u	u	r	
American Redstart	r			
Yellow Warbler	u	u	u	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	u		u	
Townsend's Warbler			r	
Wilson's Warbler	u		u	
Sparrows and Towhees				
Green-tailed Towhee			r	
Spotted Towhee	u		u	
American Tree Sparrow	r		u	
Chipping Sparrow	u	u	r	
Clay-colored Sparrow	r		r	
Brewer's Sparrow	r	r	r	
Vesper Sparrow		u	r	
Lark Sparrow		u	r	
Lark Bunting		r		
Savannah Sparrow	r			
Song Sparrow	c	c	c	c
Lincoln's Sparrow			r	
White-crowned Sparrow	u		c	c
Dark-eyed Junco	u		c	c
Tanagers				
Western Tanager	u	u	r	
Lazuli Bunting	r			
Blackbirds and Orioles				
Red-winged Blackbird	c	c	c	c
Western Meadowlark	c	c	u	
Yellow-headed Blackbird	r			
Brewer's Blackbird		r		
Common Grackle	c	c	c	
Great-tailed Grackle	r			
Brown-headed Cowbird	c	c		
Bullock's Oriole	c	c	r	
Finches				
House Finch	c	c	c	c
American Goldfinch	c	c	c	u
Old World Sparrows				
House Sparrow	c	c	c	c